



# Annex N: Emergency Support Function #14 – Private Sector & Infrastructure

October 2020

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## Coordinating Agency

Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

## Supporting Agencies

Hamilton County Administration  
Hamilton County Engineer's Office  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber  
Greater Cincinnati Water Works  
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati  
Ready2Recover  
REDI Cincinnati

## Introduction

### Purpose

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 – Private Sector & Infrastructure is to support the coordination of cross-sector operations, including the stabilization of key supply chains and community lifelines in Hamilton County, OH. This ESF describes the operational components as well as roles and responsibilities of the agencies necessary to fulfill the duties of ESF #14.

### Scope

ESF #14 serves to align and support cross-sector operations among infrastructure owners and operators, businesses, and government partners to stabilize community lifelines. ESF #14 is complementary to the operations of the other ESFs and is a mechanism for private-sector and other critical infrastructures that are not aligned to an ESF, or have no other means of coordinating their inclusion in emergency response operations.

Activities of ESF #14 include provide unique services and resources from the private sector to enhance response operations, coordinate with other ESFs to ensure Hamilton County residents have access to essential services, coordinate among private sector and infrastructure partners to prevent or mitigate cascading failures across multiple sectors, and coordinate with private sector partners to stabilize supply chains and distribution networks both within and outside the affected area.

### Situation

Community lifelines rely on businesses, interdependent critical infrastructure sectors, and complex supply chains. Disruptions in one sector can rapidly cascade across others. Such incidents can also disrupt National Critical Functions and related supply chains.

While business and infrastructure owners and operators have primary responsibility for managing their operations and systems in emergencies, ESF #14 will support and enable collaboration among critical infrastructure sectors and will help to coordinate and sequence such operations to mitigate cascading failures and risks. ESF #14 will identify, collect and synthesize information from participating private- and public-sector entities, and will provide guidance to support emergency response operations.

## Assumptions

Planning requires assumptions based on statistics, history, behavior patterns and likely future trends. The following assumptions were made as consideration for ESF #14 – Private Sector & Infrastructure:

- Organizations representing private sector partners will share information with one another and Hamilton County to coordinate support, request resources, and share information about the impacts to the private sector following a disaster.
- Private sector entities that are impacted may have limited resources to support other county operations and may be focused on more on their own stabilization than in supporting the public sector.

## Concept of Operations

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 – Private Sector & Infrastructure consists of five broad activities in relation to the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan. These activities are:

ESF #1 Activities	
1.	Provide Unique Services and Resources to Enhance Response
2.	Ensure Residents Have Access to Essential Services
3.	Prevent or Mitigate Cascading Failures Across Sectors
4.	Stabilize Supply Chains and Distribution Networks

## Overview

1. Private companies and public utilities are responsible for identifying the capabilities that are needed to stabilize their systems, just as they have the primary responsibility for conducting their own emergency operations responses when incidents occur.
2. The successful execution of cross-sector operations depends on the resources that are possessed by the owners and operators of infrastructure elements and other commercial elements.
3. Government agencies can support these partners in important ways by providing analytic products, conducting more traditional missions such as road clearing and debris removal, and through other means such as regulatory relief and the synchronizing of operational priorities.
4. ESF #14 provides important opportunities for the integration and alignment of public and private sector efforts to identify priorities for developing improved capabilities that support cross-sector operations.
5. Successful execution of cross-sector operations will depend on continued progress in developing survivable communications systems to facilitate public-private sector communications in catastrophic incidents, tools for shared situational awareness in severely disrupted environments, and other initiatives being led by the private sector and their government partners.
6. ESF #14 will enable these collaborative efforts to fit within a broader, prioritized framework for identifying required capabilities.

## Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) has the primary responsibility for supporting the coordination of private sector and infrastructure in Hamilton County. EMHSA will serve as the coordinating agency for this ESF.

## Coordinating Agency Responsibilities

Hamilton County EMHSA will:

1. Coordinate the activities of Support Agencies within ESF #14 to fulfill operational objectives.
2. Direct the activities of the ESF #14 in conjunction with assistance from ESFs at the local, State, or Federal levels as applicable.
3. Collaborate with other Coordinating Agencies to ensure an effective response between ESFs.

4. Designate sufficient representatives (no less than three) to support/staff 24-hour operations at the Hamilton County EOC. The Hamilton County EMHSA will maintain listings of these personnel, 24-hour contact information, and directions for contacting them in the event of communication outages.
5. Develop and train all staff responsible for implementing ESF #14 on standard operating procedures.
6. Share ESF #14 activity information with appropriate EOC personnel.
7. Prioritize ESF #14 operational strategies in alignment with the EOC and on scene objectives.
8. Work with infrastructure owners and operators on requests for assistance regarding critical infrastructure.
9. Coordinate local and state agencies to ensure that critical infrastructure and other private sector owners and operators have access to necessary information from across all agencies.
10. Facilitate information sharing among key stakeholders, private sector partners, government agencies, and ESFs on the status of critical businesses and industries within incident areas.
11. Deliver timely and relevant information and disseminate actionable alerts to public and private sector partners.
12. Receive, manage, and track resource requests for ESF #14 in accordance with established resource management procedures.
13. Coordinate with ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information for the inclusion of appropriate information for public dissemination.
14. Assist in the development of the After Action Report. This report is a detailed, written analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of county-level emergency response and short-term recovery activities based upon extensive research of the event and interviews with participating assessment, response, and short-term recovery personnel.

### Supporting Agencies Responsibilities

#### Hamilton County Administration will:

1. Work with critical infrastructure partners and government partners to identify and address informational and analytical needs, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-sector issues and needs.
2. Facilitate a joint understanding between industry and government agencies of hazards and risks.
3. Support local governments in their response to incidents by connecting them with private sector partners.
4. Identify options to help businesses resume operations and to incentivize growth following disasters.

#### Hamilton County Engineer's Office will:

1. Provide subject matter expertise and advice county leadership on infrastructure impacts and potential solutions.

#### Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber may:

1. Coordinate with private sector organizations on corporate humanitarian response activities and/or philanthropic programs.
2. Share information on the response and recovery process to assist industry partners who have been impacted or are functioning under business continuity plans.
3. Provide data and conduct outreach to the business community, including utilizing local stakeholder networks to determine incident damages and resource needs.

#### Duke Energy will:

1. Provides information, in cooperation with local, state and energy industry officials; on energy supply and demand conditions, as well as the requirements for, and the availability of materials and services critical to energy supply systems (e.g., outages, restoration status, energy infrastructure status) assessment and repair.

2. Assist in analyzing and modeling potential impacts to the electric power and natural gas infrastructures – identifying energy market impacts to the economy, and determining the effect of disruptions to other critical infrastructure.
3. Work with the energy sector to share critical threat information.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works will:

1. Provide subject matter expertise and advice county leadership on infrastructure impacts and potential solutions.

Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati will:

1. Provide subject matter expertise and advice county leadership on infrastructure impacts and potential solutions.

Ready2Recover will:

1. Coordinate with private sector organizations on corporate humanitarian response activities and/or philanthropic programs.
2. Assist in tracking the status of key private sector capacities and capabilities.
3. Share information on the response and recovery process to assist industry partners who have been impacted or are functioning under business continuity plans.
4. Provide data and conduct outreach to the business community, including utilizing local stakeholder networks to determine incident damages and resource needs.

REDI Cincinnati may:

1. Coordinate with private sector organizations on corporate humanitarian response activities and/or philanthropic programs.
2. Share information on the response and recovery process to assist industry partners who have been impacted or are functioning under business continuity plans.
3. Provide data and conduct outreach to the business community, including utilizing local stakeholder networks to determine incident damages and resource needs.

## References

Ohio Emergency Management Agency. (2020). *State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan. Emergency Support Function #14 – Cross-sector Business and Infrastructure Plan.*